

# 2006 SESSION PREVIEW



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### Committees:

Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks – Chair  
Transportation  
Local Government



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### Committees:

Children and Family Services – Vice-Chair  
Higher Education  
Juvenile Justice and Family Law

## 21ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SERVING EDMONDS, MUKILTEO AND PORTIONS OF LYNNWOOD AND MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Greetings and best wishes to you and your families in the New Year. We are honored to represent you and our Snohomish County communities in the state legislature.

The 2006 Legislative session will be brief—only 60 days—which means we must work quickly and efficiently to boost quality of education from pre-school to college, protect our clean air and water, take substantive steps towards bringing health care costs under control, and promote job opportunities. The Legislature faces some critical questions this session, including:

- How will we ensure that our students get a first-class education and master the high standards necessary to succeed in the 21st century?
- How will we support small businesses and families wrestling with the rising cost of health care?
- How can we facilitate the manufacture, distribution, and use of renewable-resource fuels that will promote local economies, improve air quality, and reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources?
- What do we need to do to make sure that our state is prepared to respond to a major disaster, following the wake-up call of Hurricane Katrina?



This newsletter highlights some of the work each of us has planned for the 2006 session. We care deeply about improving the lives and opportunities of all citizens of our communities and throughout the state. We look forward to working with you to realize positive accomplishments in this short session.

As your elected representatives, we depend on your input as we make decisions impacting our communities. Please keep in touch and tell us your ideas and thoughts on issues important to you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Brian J. Sullivan".

Brian Sullivan

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Mary Helen Roberts".

Mary Helen Roberts

# REPRESENTATIVE **BRIAN SULLIVAN**



## MY WORK IN 2006

As chair of the Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks Committee, I understand the importance of our magnificent forests, mountains, rivers, and species. The 2006 Session will keep me busy promoting practical solutions to maintain our quality of life.

### INCREASING ACCESS TO BIO- DIESEL, ETHANOL AND OTHER RENEWABLE FUELS

Historically being a supporter of biofuels and alternative energy sources, I am happy to say that alternative fuels are being made a priority this session. Promoting the use of clean-burning biodiesel fuel is a win-win for our state in that it will both reduce pollution and create jobs. Our state is poised to become a leader in developing renewable energy sources and our entire county would benefit from becoming more energy-independent.

I'm pleased that we will encourage and further promote biofuels growth this session. I am co-sponsoring bills to help fund a biodiesel plant in order to promote local jobs and greater availability of locally-made biodiesel, increase use of biofuels in state vehicles, and expand access to biofuels through more retailers.

### ENCOURAGING THE RECYCLING OF OLD ELECTRONICS

Used computers and other electronic equipment, or "e-waste," in our landfills is growing at three times the rate of other waste. This presents a danger to the health of people and to the environment. Electronic circuit boards, batteries, and color cathode ray tubes (CRTs) can contain hazardous materials such as lead and mercury. If improperly handled or disposed, these toxins can be released into the environment.

This session I have put forward a proposal (HB 2662) that would ask manufacturers to develop a statewide recycling plan for e-waste, ensuring that households and small businesses do not have to pay for disposal, and limiting the government's role.

### MAKING STATE PARKS MORE AFFORDABLE

Everybody should be able to enjoy our state parks. This session we are considering proposals to remove the day-use fee for state parks to ensure that citizens and visitors will not have to pay in order to enjoy our state's valuable recreational resources.



### LOOKING OUT FOR THE HEALTH OF PUGET SOUND AND SALMON

Puget Sound faces significant troubles as more and more people move into the region and pollution expands. Many species, including salmon, are dwindling which demonstrate the urgent need to improve the Sound's health. The Governor's budget request and the Puget Sound Initiative accelerate toxic cleanup, improve oil spill prevention, restore habitat, and repair failing septic systems. I will carefully examine the proposal and work to protect Puget Sound's future

### AEROSPACE JOBS PLAN

Sen. Paull Shin and I have put forward a plan to protect and expand high-paying jobs at Paine Field and other airports across Washington State. The "Aerospace Jobs Plan" will look beyond the commercial air traffic study passed by the Legislature last year in order to paint a fuller picture of the economic growth potential for industrial airports like Paine Field. The bill (HB 2383) has been introduced and all three of your legislators will work hard to promote the passage of this legislation.

# REPRESENTATIVE **MARY HELEN ROBERTS**



## MY WORK IN 2006

In my second year serving the 21st District, I will continue to concentrate on opening doors to a great future for our children from birth through college. The state's constitutionally defined primary purpose is education. I will honor that duty.

### HIGHER EDUCATION: MAKING SURE COLLEGE IS ACCESSIBLE

Snohomish County's fast growing communities have an increasing need for four-year degree programs. Edmonds Community College has a model partnership with Central Washington University offering several baccalaureate degrees. The northern part of the county, as well as numerous other parts of the state, aren't so fortunate. I will work with my colleagues to make college more accessible, eliminating barriers to future success for everyone.

Last year I introduced a bill to survey tuition waivers in our state's colleges and universities. Higher ed institutions in 2004 reported granting \$152.4 million in tuition waivers. These waivers can help many students afford college, but some question the value of all the categories. There may be ways to reduce the number of waivers and make a higher education available to even more of Washington's students.

### EARLY LEARNING AND INFANT DEVELOPMENT

Last fall I attended a presentation by Dr. Bruce Perry on infant brain development that showed vividly the terrible results of abuse and neglect on young children. His research included brain scans that showed gaps in the brains of abused and neglected infants compared to babies that received affection and attention.

We must prevent abuse and neglect, and assure appropriate and nurturing care for all children. I will work on ways to educate all parents, and caregivers, to cut down on infant neglect. I am also proposing a bill to train parents and child care providers in dealing with children with behavioral and mental health problems.



Another positive step for education is the governor's requested budget for early learning. Gov. Gregoire has said parents are the first and best educators of children, and I couldn't agree more. The \$1.5 million requested to help parents find quality preschool and coordinate early learning will be money well-spent for the future.

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**The brain is the organ of humanity. The more we understand about how the brain develops, works, and changes, the better off we'll be when we design programs, policies, and practices.**

*- Dr. Bruce Perry, neuroscientist and researcher of infant brain development*

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### FAIRNESS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

Many children and young people who commit minor offenses, such as shoplifting or possession of alcohol, enter the diversion system. Diversion means the youth who committed crimes must plead guilty and meet a board of community members. The board decides on a contract for the youth that emphasizes restorative justice.

Currently, the misdemeanor remains on the youth's criminal record. I am proposing a bill that will allow a youth who has successfully completed a diversion program to have their record sealed. Youth who accept responsibility for their mistakes deserve the opportunity to begin their adult life without the handicap of a criminal record.



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## REP. SULLIVAN • REP. ROBERTS

### NEWS YOU CAN USE

#### SAVE MONEY ON HEATING BILLS

With fuel prices rising, including natural gas and heating oil, we thought a few handy tips on saving money might be useful.

- Set your home's thermostat at the coolest level you can without making your rooms uncomfortable. For most homes, the heating bill drops by about 2 percent for every 1 degree the thermostat is lowered.
- Lower your home's thermostat at bedtime or while you're away during the day. Setting the thermostat to 58 degrees while you're asleep can cut your natural-gas bill by up to 7 percent.
- Seal up leaky drafts around doors and windows with weather-stripping, caulking, and door sweeps. Also seal up any leaks or gaps in furnace ducts that extend through unheated basements or crawl spaces.
- Before the heating season starts, have your furnace inspected and tuned up every two to three years. Clean or replace the air filters on your furnace every two months when your furnace is in regular use. Your furnace will run more efficiently and use less energy.
- Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Lowering the temperature will save you money and reduce the risk of being scalded.
- Make sure you have adequate insulation in your home's attic and walls, and around heating ducts that pass through unheated spaces.
- Purchase an Energy Star® rated high-efficiency furnace, water heater, washer/dryer, and dishwasher when it's time to replace worn-out models.

You can learn more tips from the Utilities Commission at: [www.wutc.wa.gov/consumer](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/consumer)

If you have a low income, you may qualify for assistance on your heating bills. Contact the Snohomish County Human Services Department at (425) 259-5185 or visit [www.co.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us)

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